

and all sorts of things that we can provide that give people access to immediate real-time communication. We now are able to rent portable phones, cell phones. You can rent them by the minute; you can rent them by the hour. If you rent a phone, have a phone and use it for an hour, and we're able to know that, in fact, that phone is being used by a terrorist overseas, but that phone's only going to be used for 1 hour or one call, it is incomprehensible that patriotic Americans would believe that our government ought to have to go to court in order to get a court order to listen to that conversation that occurred yesterday, the day before, the day before that, or that morning, for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, current technology dictates that our law keeps up with current technology. Otherwise, the terrorists, the bad guys are a leap ahead of us, and that's what's happened in the last 19 days, 20 days when this law's been allowed to expire, and that is that the terrorists are getting a leap ahead of us. Again, that's not my opinion. That's a fact that I'll demonstrate as we talk more about this afternoon.

Continuing in the letter, "The FISA Court's decision hinged on the fact that those entirely foreign communications are frequently routed through telecommunications facilities that happen to be located in the United States. And because modern global communications networks routinely route data through numerous facilities in a myriad of countries, the nation in which the call originates may be completely unrelated to the nation through which the call is ultimately routed."

What that means, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is that when a call is made in a foreign land by a terrorist or a suspected terrorist and he or she is calling another suspected terrorist in a foreign land, the electronics, the signal, the electronic signal of that call may go to a satellite, may come down to a station in the United States, and may head back to another satellite and then down to the terrorist. And that happens in real-time. That happens in split seconds. And because that electronic communication touches American soil, or a company on American soil, then, apparently, the liberal leadership in this House of Representatives believes that those individuals ought to be afforded every protection of the United States Constitution.

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Mr. Speaker, that is an abrogation of duty. That is not what the American people believe. It is not what the Constitution says, and it is not what action we would choose in order to fulfill and live up to our responsibility and our oath.

Again, going on. In the letter it says: A bipartisan majority of the United States Senate recently approved S. 2248, but until it's passed by the House of Representatives, intelligence officials must obtain FISA warrants every

time they attempt to monitor suspected terrorists in overseas countries. We have talked about how unworkable that is. Passing S. 2248 would ensure that our intelligence experts are once again able to conduct real-time surveillance.

As you know, prompt access to intelligence data is critical to the ongoing safety and security of our Nation. As attorneys general, we are our States' chief law enforcement officials and therefore responsible for taking whatever action is necessary to keep our citizens safe.

With S. 2248 still pending in House of Representatives, our national security is in jeopardy. Mr. Speaker, that's not Congressman TOM PRICE saying that. That is a signed letter from 25, a group of bipartisan 25 State attorneys general, saying until this is passed, our national security is in jeopardy. We therefore urge the House of Representatives to schedule a vote and pass the FISA Amendments Act of 2007. Signed by the attorneys general of the States of Texas, New Hampshire, Georgia, Nebraska, Indiana, Alabama, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Oklahoma, Maryland, South Dakota, Rhode Island, Florida, Arkansas, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington State, South Carolina, Utah, Kansas, North Dakota, Colorado, and Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, this letter demonstrates that those individuals, Republican and Democrat across this Nation who are charged with making certain that their citizens in their respective States are safe, recognize the gravity, the gravity of this situation and the dereliction of duty that occurs when the House of Representatives is not allowed the opportunity to vote on renewing the Protect America Act.

Mr. Speaker, we have called on the Speaker, called on the leadership on the majority side of the aisle, on the Democrat side of the aisle, to schedule a vote. Three weeks ago, the leadership said, no, we need about 3 weeks. That's what they said, Mr. Speaker. Three weeks ago they said, we need about 3 weeks and we'll be able to work with the Senate and work out any differences or disagreements or concerns that we have. Just give us 3 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago they said that there wasn't any urgency. There wasn't any urgency. Then last week on the floor of this House they said, we are working on it. It's an important matter. We are working on it. We will get it done. Over this past weekend, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee said, we ought to be able to get it done this week.

Mr. Speaker, time is ticking away. Day after day after day that we do not have this law in place makes it so that our Nation is less secure, our people are less safe all for want of a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. Senate Republicans understand that and have acted appropriately. Senate Democrats understand that and have acted appropriately. House Re-

publicans understand that and are trying to act appropriately. House Democrat leadership refuses to schedule a vote. They do so apparently because they believe it will pass. Astounding, astounding, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to be joined by my good friend from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and look forward to her comments on this issue, which I know you have spoken out about so vigorously and understand the gravity of not acting on the Protect America Act.

I am pleased to yield to my friend.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia not only for his leadership on this issue of our Nation's security, but for his work on the Truth Squad as he always repeats the phrase, everyone's entitled to their own opinion but not their own facts.

That is so pertinent, Mr. Speaker, to the debate that we are having on our Nation's security. There is no issue that trumps the security issue. This is something that we know to be very important.

As I travel the country and as I travel my district, what I hear from people is, Why are you not taking this up? Why are you not taking the steps to make certain that we can find out who is trying to harm us?

You know, Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense at all. As I talk with moms that are in my district so regularly, they will talk about how concerned they are with security, security in our communities, security in our places of work, security in our children's schools. They want to make certain that the security to live peacefully is there for us here in our homeland.

They want to be certain that those protections are there for our troops who are deployed; and at this very minute, I have troops from Fort Campbell, which is in my district in Tennessee, and troops who are National Guardsmen from Tennessee who are deployed making certain that American interests are safe and making certain that Americans in our great Nation are also safe to live their lives freely in pursuit of happiness every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I find it absolutely revolting and unsettling that the leadership of this House continues to stand in the way of the Protect America Act. Our colleagues in the Senate have decided this is a very important issue. We all know what happens when you set aside work. You have to kind of pick it up off the table and move it over and say, we are going to come back to that, and we are going to get those items accomplished. But first and foremost, let's deal with the Nation's security.

So they put that on the desk. They made it the priority. They took it up and they said, it is not a partisan issue. We are going to find agreement on this because the security of this Nation trumps it all. The security trumps it all.

Now, if we wanted to go play the ostrich game or if we wanted to go play